

## **Asbestos Inspections Required Prior to Demolitions and Renovations**

In Maine, improper demolition activities may be the greatest single source of asbestos exposure to the general public and to tradespeople working on the project. Prior to demolition or renovation of a building, the owner must ensure that the work will not disturb more than 3 square feet or 3 linear feet of asbestos-containing material (ACM). Owners of buildings, other than residential buildings with less than 5 units, must have a DEP-licensed Asbestos Consultant inspect the building (or area) for asbestos. Residential buildings with 2-5 units can be surveyed for likely asbestos-containing materials by knowledgeable non-licensed people (e.g. building inspectors and CEO's who have asbestos-awareness training); any materials likely to contain asbestos must be tested by a DEP-certified inspector or assumed to be ACM.

If ACM is identified in a building that will be demolished, or any building materials are assumed to be ACM, these materials must be removed by a DEP-licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor before the demolition. Similarly, if any ACM is identified or assumed in areas of a building that will undergo renovation, the ACM must be removed by a DEP-licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor before the renovation occurs. Intact asbestos-containing flooring and roofing may be left in place during demolition of a building if the demolition is performed by a DEP-licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor using large equipment in accordance with the Maine "Asbestos Management Regulations".

### **Demolition Notification**

State and federal regulations require that building owners notify the DEP at least 5 working days prior to demolition of a building (other than single-family residences). This notification is required even if no asbestos is identified in the building. Forms are available from DEP and your local code enforcement office.

**Please note:** OSHA regulates asbestos anytime an employer/employee relationship exists. OSHA worker protection rules exist and must be followed for abatement activities. Contact the local OSHA office with questions.

**If you have any questions about  
asbestos, or state and federal asbestos regulations, please contact  
the DEP Asbestos Hazard Prevention Program at (207) 287-2651**